

**Testimony of Robert N. Reeves, Jr.,  
President of E. Allen Reeves, Inc.  
PA House Bill 1154  
Thursday, August 22, 2013  
Harrisburg, PA**

Mr. Chairman Marsico, Mr. Chairman Caltagirone, and

Members of the Committee:

As the Owner of a Regional Construction Management firm  
we have been providing service for 95 years to primarily  
Private Institutional clients – Churches, Schools, Colleges,  
Senior Care, Health Care, Clubs & Museums.

We are a Merit Shop firm meaning we select employees and  
subcontractors based upon their merit (skills & talents) not  
affiliation with or without union membership. Our Employees  
are Open Shop & we have access to all of the market place w/  
Open Shop & Union Subcontractors.

Nationally, approximately 88% of construction is performed by Open Shop workers while 12% is performed by Union workers. In Pennsylvania, about 80% of projects are Open Shop and 20% are Union.

There is a long history of union intimidation & violence Nationally and in our Philadelphia Market against Open Shop Construction firms, Employees & The Owners using them. Our firm & our competitors – and even more so our subcontractors – have experienced a wide variety of Innuendoes, harassment, Threats, destruction of property & violence.

Through the years, our employees have been followed home, tacks put on their driveways, tires slashed, and had verbal abuse directed at them, their wives and families. We had a bank under construction with the concreted forms blown out by explosives with powder burns and neighbors' glass shattered. The police wrote it up as natural causes. Years ago on an industrial building in Willow Grove, PA, I was shot at to intimidate us into using Union subcontractors.

Early on the morning of Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> last year, Someone in a pouring rain storm set fire to the crane erecting the Structural Steel on site of a new Quaker Meeting we are constructing in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. Also in about 12 locations they cut thru w/ an acetylene torch the Steel Columns holding up the building, burned anchor bolts & loosened others.

(I do wish to note, the police have exhibited a positive responsiveness in pursuing the case.)

Now I am not 100% sure but in my opinion & that of the investigating Philadelphia Police Detectives it was the actions of construction unions. The unions have denied responsibility, including one denial that the project wasn't large enough. Which makes one wonder if it had been larger – what then.

Now I don't know but I don't suspect a group of neighborhood boys or local Girl Scout Troop out for an acetylene torch merit badge was out in the middle of the night. We had in the prior weeks half a dozen visits by local union business agents and on the Monday before the damage, a rep from the Ironworkers visited the site and upon leaving stated "I got to do what I got to do."

Now, it's wrong to inflict violence and damage against any owner but against the peaceful Quakers, a religious group, it speaks to the arrogance of entitlement and belief that they can get away with anything and be protected by the System.

It's ironic to me, that we have 0% tolerance today for a 10 yr old in school "bullying" yet when adults bully, our community leaders, look the other way or reward them with special preferences.

Why is this? Well I believe we have a Culture of Corruption with Special Interests aligned together that selectively look the other way out of their own Selfish Best Interest.

This will not change until Political Leadership aligned w/ the Unions publicly & privately condemn Union harassment and violence, as they do similar acts for others in Society. That Leadership can still support union efforts but not violent tactics.

In politics lately, there is a lot of focus on making the top 1% of earners pay a little more, to pay their fair share.

In construction, the top 12%'ers, union members are subsidized by Government, are winked at by leaders for their bullying and are the most violent in the marketplace.

Let's stop the bad behavior of Bullies.

History is full of the struggle between the individual and society, Freedom of Choice vs. Collectivism, But I believe millions of people making millions of decisions daily on where to shop, what to buy, how to do business, provide for far more freedom, far more innovation and far more accountability, if we are interested in a sustainable long term growing, free and successful economy and country.

Finally, there is no compelling reason for any legislator to vote to allow a select highly-paid group have special exception from actions that, if anyone else not in a union were to exhibit, it would be a crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Chestnut Hill Meeting Vandalism (December2012)





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